

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated October 9, 2008. Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. By the present Amendment, claims 1 and 16 have been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter. Claims 1-16 would remain pending upon entry of this amendment in this application, with claims 1 and 16 being in independent form.

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as purportedly failing to show the aspect of “scanner angle in the imaging conditions displayed in a parallelepiped configuration ...”

However, applicant respectfully notes that claim 12 was amended in the April 27, 2007 Amendment and no longer refers to a “parallelepiped” configuration.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the features of claim 12 (and the other pending claims) are supported by the drawings of this application, and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is requested.

Claims 1-13 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,063,032 to Grunwald. Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Grunwald in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,215,479 to Matsui.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is allowable over the cited art, for at least the reason that the cited art does not disclose or suggest the aspects of the present application that the second display device extracts one or more of the imaging conditions including the frame (indicating the scan area) and the lines (indicating imaging position of the tomographic images and image reconstruction positions of the tomographic images) and displays the extracted imaging conditions. Each of independent claims 1 and 16 addresses such aspects,

as well as additional features.

Grunwald, as understood by Applicant, proposes an approach for simultaneously displaying an ultrasound image of an area of interest and a magnified portion of the image, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4 (reproduced below) thereof.

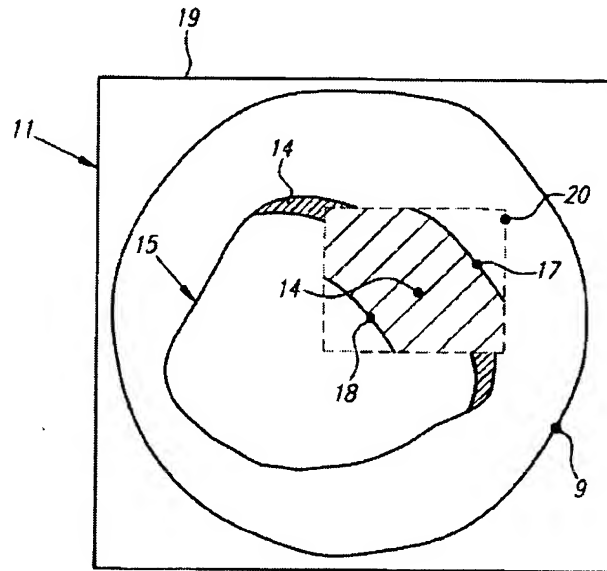


FIG. 3

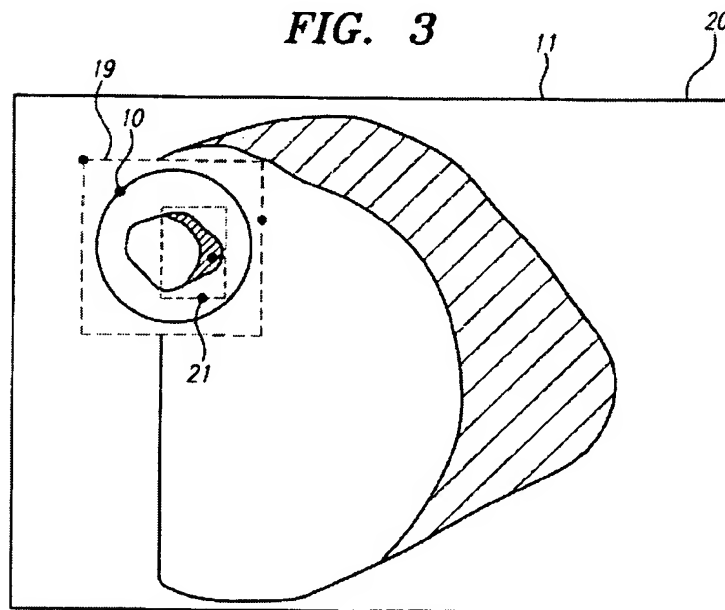


FIG. 4

Fig. 3 of Grunwald shows an intravascular ultrasound image displayed on a CRT display 11, wherein an orientation window 19 occupying the entire display 11 contains the displayed image, and a smaller magnification window 20 is superposed on the orientation window 19 and shows a magnified image of plaque 14 within outer vessel wall 17 and inner vessel wall 18. Fig. 4 of Grunwald shows an alternative display wherein the magnification window 20 occupies the display 11, and the intravascular image is placed in a smaller orientation window 19 superposed on the magnification window 20 and with a region of interest window 21 on the intravascular image within orientation window 19 demarcating the portion to be magnified.

Figs. 3 and 4 of Grunwald are equated with the first display device and second display device, respectively, of the present application.

Fig. 4 of Grunwald shows a display wherein the magnification window 20 occupies the display 11, and the intravascular image is placed in a smaller orientation window 19 superposed on the magnification window 20 and with a region of interest window 21 on the intravascular image within orientation window 19 demarcating the portion to be magnified. Figs. 3 and 4 of Grunwald show respective configurations of the display wherein the relative size and order of presentation of the orientation window 19 and the magnification window 20 are reversed.

However, neither Fig. 4 nor any other portion of Grunwald discloses or suggests that the second display device extracts one or more of the imaging conditions including the frame (indicating the scan area) and the lines (indicating imaging position of the tomographic images and image reconstruction positions of the tomographic images) and displays the extracted imaging conditions.

Such aspect is likewise not disclosed or suggested in Matsui.

Applicant submits that the cited art, even when considered along with common sense and

common knowledge to one skilled in the art, does **NOT** render unpatentable the above-mentioned aspect of the present application.


Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 16, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

In view of the remarks hereinabove, applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any required fees, and to credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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